

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

These remarks are made in response to the Office Action of April 4, 2008 (Office Action). As this response is timely filed within the 3-month shortened statutory period, no fee is believed due. However, the Examiner is expressly authorized to charge any deficiencies to Deposit Account No. 50-0951.

#### **Double Patenting**

Claims 1-4, 6-13, 15-22, and 24-30 were rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1, 9, and 17 of U.S. Patent 6,954,522 in view of U.S. Patent 6,697,642 to Thomas (hereinafter Thomas).

A terminal disclaimer is submitted herewith to obviate the double patenting rejection.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request that the double patenting rejection be withdrawn.

Applicants have cancelled Claims 10-30. However, Applicants are not conceding that the cancelled claims fail to present patentable subject. The cancellation is solely for the purpose of expediting prosecution. Accordingly, the cancellations should not be interpreted as the surrender of any subject matter, and Applicants expressly reserve the right to present the original version of any of the cancelled claims in any future divisional or continuation applications from the present application.

### **CONCLUSION**

Applicants believe that this application is now in full condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. Applicants request that the Examiner call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any matter within this Amendment, or if the

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Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,

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